

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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TAGS: MASS GH

SUBJ: CHANGES IN PRICING OF FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 051768

FOLLOWING KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 5, REFTEL:

A. AS GHANA DEPENDS HEAVILY ON US TRAINING, COST INCREASES WHICH WILL RESULT IN CURTAILING NUMBER OF COURSES AVAILABLE WILL NOT BE RECEIVED WELL. DESPITE FACT THESE INCREASES APPLY EQUALLY WORLD WIDE, SOME GHANAIS ARE BOUND TO SEE CUTTING BACK IN NUMBER OF COURSES AVAILABLE TO THEM AS RETALIATION FOR FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS ALONG LINES WHICH HAVE BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED RECENTLY IN US PRESS AND ABROAD. THUS WE FEEL POLITICAL, RATHER THAN INFLATIONARY OR BUDGETARY, FACTORS WILL BE SEEN.

B. GHANA DESIRES COURSES WHICH WILL ENHANCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (E.G., COMMAND AND STAFF, ADVANCED BRANCH TRAINING, MANAGEMENT) AND SPECIAL SKILLS (E.G., RANGER, AIRBORNE, FLIGHT SAFETY , ROTARY WING TRANSITION). GHANA IS UNLIKELY, GIVEN SEVERE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSTRAINTS, TO ABSORB FURTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS THROUGH FMS PURCHASE OF COURSES. DURING FY-75 GHANA PURCHASED OHBY \$15,480 AND IN FY-76 TO DATE ONLY \$1,260; BALANCE OF TRAINING UNDER GRANT PROGRAM. THE ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO GHANA, IN
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ADDITION TO DECREASING AMOUNT OF FOREIGN TRAINING, ARE FEW.

FIRST, AND LEAST UNDESIRABLE TO US, WOULD BE FOR GHANA TO NEGOTIATE AND INCREASE IN UK GRANT TRAINING, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY PROVE DIFFICULT AS WE UNDERSTAND UK HAS ALSO DECREASED ITS PROGRAM (IN TERMS OF SPACES PROVIDED, RATHER THAN BY INCREASING COSTS). SECOND, THE GHANAIANS COULD PERHAPS TURN TO THE USSR AND/OR OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE SOVIETS HAVE OFFERED TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND ACCEPTANCE WOULD ON THE SURFACE BE IN ACCORD WITH GHANA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY. BUT WE THINK THIS WOULD BE DONE RELUCTANTLY, BOTH FOR PRACTICAL (LINGUISTIC, EQUIPMENT, ETC.) AND POLITICAL REASONS.

C. THE COURSES MOST BENEFICIAL TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE THOSE AT THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEVEL. THESE ARE TIMED FOR THE PERIOD DURING AN OFFICER'S CAREER JUST PRIOR TO HIS POSSIBLE ASSUMPTION OF KEY ROLES EITHER IN THE MILITARY OR IN THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IF COSTS INCREASE AT THE ANTICIPATED RATE EVEN THESE COURSES COULD NOT BE CONTINUED AT THE PRESENT LEVEL.

D. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHICH COURSES WOULD BE CANCELLED. IN A SMALL PROGRAM WHICH IS ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED BY THE GHANAIANS, THEY CONSIDER ALL COURSES PRIORITY. OUR ESTIMATE IS MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COURSES WOULD BE ABANDONED FIRST, FOLLOWED BY COMMAND AND STAFF AND ADVANCED BRANCH, BUT THIS IS FAR FROM CLEAR.

E. WE HAVE MENTIONED IN B ABOVE POSSIBLE ALTERNATE SOURCES FOR GHANA FOR ITS FOREIGN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. WERE GHANA TO TURN TO THE UK WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NO FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS AND LITTLE OPERATIONAL CHANGE. THE RESULT OF A MOVE TOWARD SOVIET OR EASTERN EUROPEAN COURSES WOULD, CLEARLY, ENTAIL POLITICAL ISSUES AS WELL AS OPERATIONAL AND POSSIBLY EQUIPMENT MATTERS. IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY TO US-GHANAIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

F. IT IS EVIDENT FROM MUCH OF THE ABOVE THAT THERE WOULD BE A SEVERE IMPACT WERE GRANT ASSISTANCE ELIMINATED. IN ADDITION TO THESE FACTORS, GHANA COULD WELL REACT STRONGLY WERE SUFFICIENT NOTICE NOT GIVEN OF AN ELIMINATION. GHANA HAS PLANNED AHEAD IN ITS TRAINING PROGRAM ON THE BASIS THAT US ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME MORE, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZED THAT INCREASED GHANAIAN COSTS MIGHT BE A PRELUDE TO THE END OF THE GRANT PROGRAM. GHANA
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HAS BEEN PAYING TRANSPORTATION AND LIVING ALLOWANCE COSTS, BUT IT HAS EXPECTED THE US GRANT FUNDS TO COVER THE COST OF THE ACTUAL TRAINING ITSELF. WE WOULD, THUS, HOPE FOR AN ORDERLY PHASE DOWN IF SUCH IS REQUIRED.
BLACK

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